

*Entered for purposes of Appeal GNG 10-22-04*

In the claims:

1. (Original) A link element (10) for windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod (28) and is manufactured out of a metal sheet (16) by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall (40), at least one wall part of a side wall (38, 42) is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device (32, 52, 54; 60; 58, 64) for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space (30) between side walls (38, 42), characterized in that a slot (52) lateral to the longitudinal direction (56) of the link element (10) is let into the innermost sheet metal layer from the bottom edge (50) and a pin (54) is inserted into this slot.

2. (Previously presented) The link element (10) according to claim 1, wherein the slot (52) and the covering wall (40) enclose an acute angle ( $\phi$ ) whose vertex points toward a linking end (34).

3. (Previously presented) The link element (10) claim 1, wherein the pin (54) is press-fitted and/or secured in detent fashion between the outer sheet metal layers of the side walls (38, 42).